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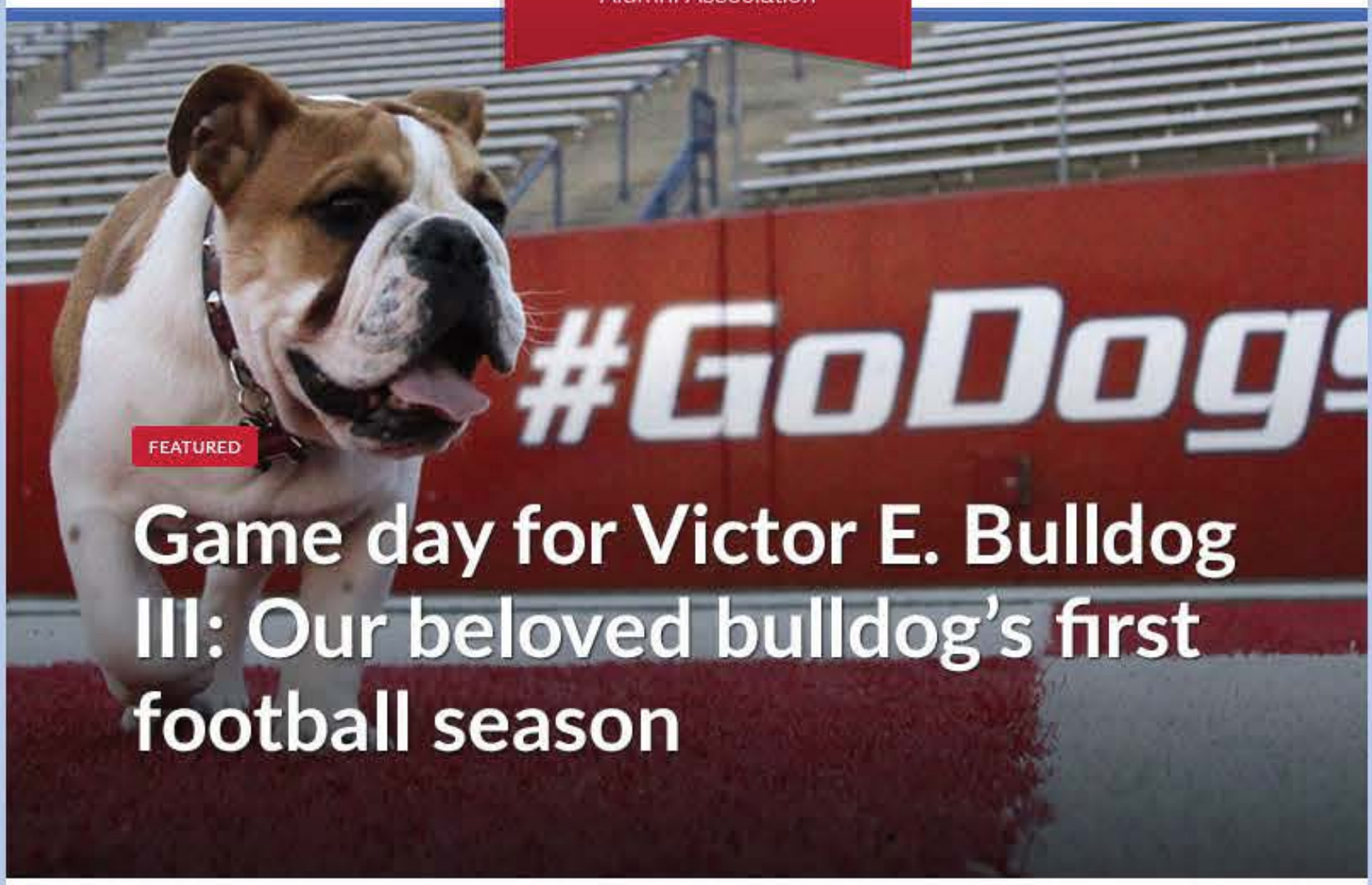
ALUMNI NEWS

FRESNO STATE
Alumni Association

DEC. 2015



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Game day for Victor E. Bulldog III: Our beloved bulldog's first football season

TOP STORIES

Award-winning author finds inspiration in Valley veterans

"I want to be an inspiration to my daughter"

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Rainbow Alumni & Allies Club hits the ground running

Preparing for the journey: Alum shares how Fresno State helped him succeed

A young alum's career takes flight

Business alumni enjoy night of food, wine tasting

Other top news…

- Alumni become leaders of their own college writing centers
- University Theatre to present 'Really Really'
- University mourns the passing of alumnus Dr. Harry Moordigian
- Joseph I. Castro: Pell Grant helped pave my road to college

Alumnus establishes scholarship endowment in memory of public health student

Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval named dean of College of Arts and Humanities

Winemaking: A growing tradition video

University serves 335 veterans with three programs

CLASS NOTES

Mary Piona (Alumna), a local farmer, is highlighted in The Fresno Bee's photo exhibit titled "Faces of the Drought."

Amanda Little (2004) established and owns Make Pie Not War – a business that hand makes necklaces, bracelets and rings made in the converted garage to about 40 boutiques nationwide and one in Japan. The business is also a finalist in the Martha Stewart American Made awards. Read more

Candy Tsang (1981) climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa in September of 2015. She reached the summit at 1,931 feet after a five-day trek up, followed by a three-day trek down.

Paul Bauer (1995) was selected by The National Advocates, "a professional organization comprised of premier lawyers," to be included into its Employment Law specialty. The selection for this organization is exclusive– limited to only 100 attorneys per state. By being selected, Bauer has shown that he demonstrates "superior qualifications, leadership skills and case results as a legal professional."

Mark Torres (2011) has been hired as an account manager at Survey Monkey.

Mike Wintemute (1993) is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations for the Texas State University, based in Austin, Texas.

Jean Rousseau (1986) has been named Fresno County's new chief administrative officer. He had been Tulare County's administrative officer since 2007.

Rico Guerrero (1998) has been named the executive director of the State Center Community College District. He has worked previously for the Fresno Regional Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County.

Joe Del Bosque (1975) has been named the 2015 Agriculturist of the Year by the Fresno Chamber of Commerce. The west-side farmer, who gave President Barack Obama a tour of his drought-stricken land last year. Founded in 1985, Empresas Del Bosque Inc. began as a small operation led by Del Bosque and his wife, Maria. Today, the Firebaugh-area grower has built a company that farms cantaloupes – conventional and organic – along with organic honeydew, asparagus and almonds. Read more

Sandra Celedon-Castro (2011) is the Hub Manager for Building Healthy Communities based in Fresno, California.

Will Cantrell (2005) and ***Jeremy Carrillo (2007)*** were married on September 19, 2015 at Una Bella Giornata of Cardella Winery in Mendota, California. They met as students at Fresno State and have been dating since 2004.

Dr. Russel Statham (2009, '11, '14) was recently promoted to chief operating officer and chief financial officer of the California State University, Dominguez Hills Foundation. In this capacity, Dr. Statham is responsible for administration of all business, financial, human resources, risk management, information technology, grants and contracts, and corporate services of the $30 million non-profit CSU auxiliary organization. Previously, Dr. Statham served as chief financial officer.

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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEC 3

Crim Talk: Evolving Drug Trends

Nationally and internationally-renowned narcotics expert Robert Pennal will present local and international trends involving Transnational Drug Trafficking Organization. Specific focus on crystal methamphetamine, teenage heroin abuse and the recent surge in marijuana butane honey oil labs.

LOCATION

Smittcamp Alumni House
2625 E. Barstow Matoian Way, Fresno, CA 93740

DEC 4

CDDS Continuing Education Course

Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies Chapter invites you to attend two workshops for professionals and students. This program meets the qualifications for up to 6 hours of Continuing Professional Development Credit (CPD) Intermediate Level, for Speech-Language Pathologists as required by the California Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board. CSU Fresno PDP #303

LOCATION

David E. Cook Center
1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis, CA 93611

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@FresnoStateAlum 3:20 PM - 23 Mar 2015

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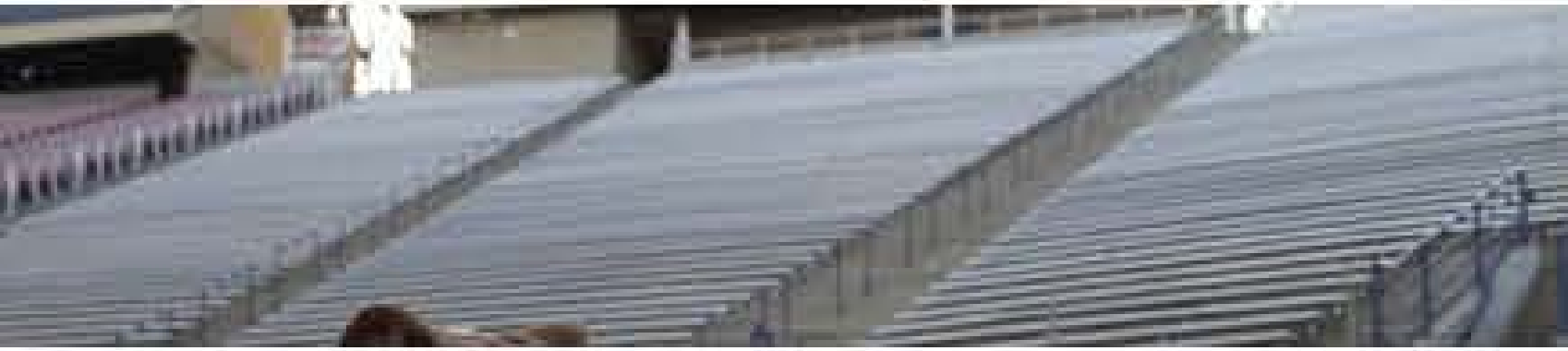

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Photos by Cary Edmondson

Game day for Victor E. Bulldog III: Our beloved bulldog's first football season

By Katie Delphia

This season, as the Fresno State football team began their own preparations for each home game,

Victor E. Bulldog III (VEBIII) started learning his own routine.

Owned and managed by the Fresno State Alumni Association, VEBIII has multiple handlers that oversee his day-to-day schedule. One of his handlers is Jacquelyn K. Glasener, executive director of the Fresno State Alumni Association.

The day before a home game, Glasener or one of the other handlers took VEBIII to Tailwaggers, a dog-pampering salon—and one of his official sponsors—for a special grooming session.

"I post something on his Twitter and Instagram to show people how he is getting ready for the game—a picture, usually, because it is fun for people to see," Glasener said.

To make sure he was rested and ready for the night, VEBIII had playtime and naps the day of the game.

As the Fresno State Bulldog football players started their pre-game routine, VEBIII and his handlers geared up too, packing his supplies, which included his cooling mat, water, a backpack filled with toys and his jersey.

While on his way to his scheduled appearances, people would always ask if he was "the real Victor E. Bulldog III"—and if so, they immediately would want their picture taken with him.

"They just get excited, and he reacts to kids so well," Glasener said.

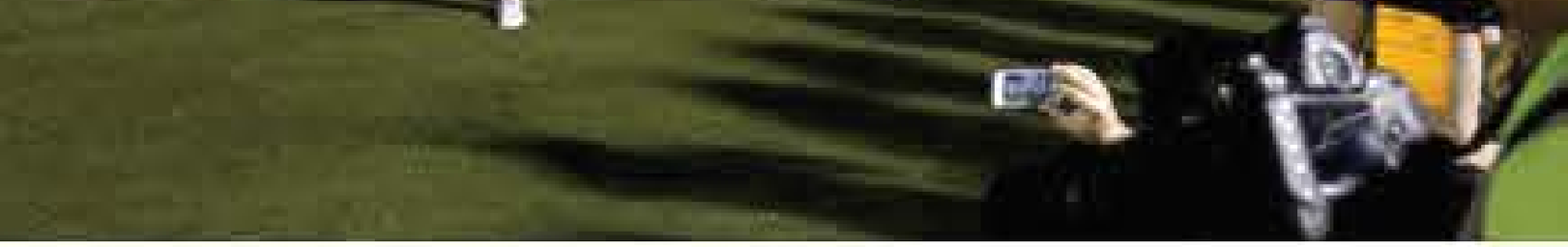
Victor E. Bulldog III also loved being with TimeOut during the games. Blair Smittcamp, assistant director of student and young alumni engagement and one of his handlers, said TimeOut was VEBIII's best buddy.

"Seeing his buddy TimeOut isn't necessarily a ritual before a game, but he always gets excited and ready to go when he sees him," Smittcamp said. "I think that most times when he sees him, TimeOut gives Victor a little pep talk and sends him good vibes before he goes out to perform."

VEBIII had at least five appearances every game. During the halftime show he would make an on-field appearance to promote PetER, his official veterinary sponsor, and Plato Pet Treats, his official pet treat sponsor.

Glasener and Smittcamp both agreed that the crowd could not contain their excitement when he would come onto the field.

"The crowd totally loves him; how could they not? And he loves the crowd. Victor knows what he's doing and knows what he represents—meeting the fans and getting to promote pride for Fresno State is what Victor does best," Smittcamp said.



After his on-field appearances, VEBIII would make his way up to the suites of President Joseph I. Castro, Athletic Director Jim Bartko, and Coach Tim DeRuyter, where he mingled with guests and posed for pictures.

"He is a puppy and so by that point in the evening he is done and falling asleep," Glasener said.

Smittcamp said, "Having Victor E. Bulldog III on campus, in the community and performing on game days makes the students, faculty, staff, friends and fans feel more connected and have more pride for the university."

Matthew D. Schulz contributed to this story.

Education Alumni Mascot

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Award-winning author finds inspiration in Valley veterans

By MARISA MATA, Student Writer

After opening an art gallery, Janice Stevens (1993) re-enrolled at Fresno State and obtained her master's degree while running her own business. After getting her master's, Stevens went into teaching and pursued her passion for writing. She is now an award-winning author with a magazine column and nine published books.

Seven of the books that Stevens has written include elements of history and memoir, and feature watercolor illustrations from her business partner, Pat Hunter, an accomplished artist.

"My collaboration with my business partner…is probably the most exciting aspect of my work… Pat and I have co-owned Gallery II for more than

35 years and continue to work together not only at the business, but collaborating on our books and magazine column as well."

When Stevens isn't writing, she teaches. She began teaching at community colleges over 20 years ago, and currently teaches writing classes for veterans in Clovis. She has drawn from the veterans' experiences to write two books in a collection, entitled *Stories of Service*.

"That, perhaps, is the most rewarding class I teach. However, the reality is the veterans teach me more than I could ever teach them in terms of heroism, courage and patriotism," Stevens says.

Stevens was awarded the Crystal Award from Clovis Unified School District as well as the Certificate of Award for Women in American History from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for her publications and work with veterans. She was also nominated for the Clovis Hall of Fame in 2010.

> *"I would have to say my greatest accomplishment in regards to my writing is that writing provides me with what humbles me most—that is working with writers, especially my veterans, who trust me to share their dreams, their tragedies and their successes."*

Stevens is currently working on her tenth book, *South*—the third volume in her collection *An Artist and a Writer Travel Highway 1*.

"I've always liked to write," she says. "I would write [even] if I didn't have an audience, because writing is what I am driven to do."

Alumni Education Author

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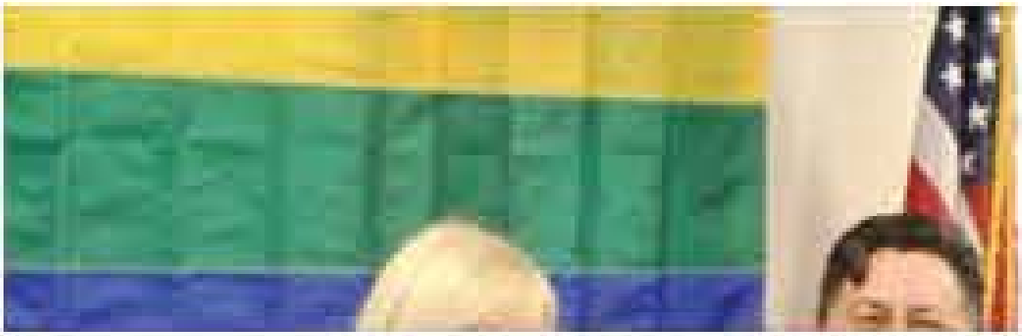

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Photos courtesy of the Rainbow Alumni and Allies Club

Rainbow Alumni & Allies Club hits the

ground running

By ESRA HASHEM, Student Writer

The newest Fresno State Alumni Association club has hit the ground running since it was established in early September.

The Rainbow Alumni and Allies Club held its first public event—an inaugural reception—on September 28. The club has since elected officers, created a new look, established its goals and planned upcoming events.

The Rainbow Alumni and Allies Club aims to engage and support LGBTQ+ alumni, students and allies. The club has three main focuses: Advancing advocacy, promoting pride, and supporting students.

"I think the club is important because it serves not only alumni exclusively, but it's all-encompassing," said Carlos Perez, treasurer. "It gives students, friends and community members an outlet to connect with others, be more informed and get assistance if needed."

Along with Perez, the club's officers are: Lucas Lundy, president, Jess Esquivel III, vice president, and Joshua Liggett, secretary.

"We're all different ages. We all come from different backgrounds, so we all bring something different to the table in terms of how we will operate."

Perez said.

Peter Robertson, who served as interim president until elections were held earlier this fall, was pivotal to the club's formation. He was inspired by current research which shows that disenfranchised and marginalized students and alumni—including members of the LGBTQ+ community—will often successfully connect with each other outside of their academic disciplines.

> *"Our hope is to positively fill this missing gap for Fresno State where and how it's needed most," Robertson said.*

The club is not only open to those who identify as LGBTQ+, but also the community's allies.

"A lot of times, people would see [the club] and think, 'Well, I'm not LGBTQ+, so I'm not going to go. I'm not going to participate,'" Perez said. "But we include the allies because we welcome straight allies. The ally itself is an all-encompassing term. It's someone who is ready to offer their support. It can be someone who is gay or straight. It doesn't matter."

Perez said the club is excited to be pursuing several goals. Supporting United Student Pride is currently on the club's agenda.

The club is also co-sponsoring a speaker event with United Student Pride later this week, on December 4. Fresno State alumna Robin McGeehee, a nationally-recognized LGBTQ+ rights activist, will speak about "getting equal" at the Smittcamp Alumni House at 10 a.m.

In addition to bringing speakers to campus, Perez said the club aims to have some involvement in Fresno State's third annual LGBTQ+ graduation recognition ceremony in May, and hold a back-to-school mixer next fall.

"We're barely in the beginning phases of the club," Perez said. "It's just started, so we're still getting our feet wet. We're coming into our own, and it's exciting."

To join the Rainbow Alumni and Allies Club, or any other FSAA chapter, club or network, visit

http://bit.ly/FSAAGetConnected.

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Wieland (pictured second from the right) with associates from Sagaser, Watkins & Wieland PC. Photos courtesy of Ian Wieland

Preparing for the journey: Alum shares how Fresno State helped him succeed

By MARISA MATA, Student Writer

Ian Wieland (2007) decided to attend Fresno State after being accepted into the Smittcamp Family Honors College. While a student, Wieland made many connections that provided him insight into a career in law and politics. He attributes much of his success to Fresno State, and now, being a successful owner of his own law firm, he gives back to the university and programs that helped him get there.

"As a student at Fresno State I was able to make lasting connections during my undergraduate years that helped me with a career in politics and then in law," Wieland says.

Wieland, a political science and history major, participated in several history and political science organizations at Fresno State. He was the president of Sigma Phi Epsilon, and founded the mock trial team and a law fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta. As a student, Wieland completed two internships through The Maddy Institute– one in Sacramento for an assembly member and another in Washington D.C. for a congressman.

Congressman Jim Costa (left) and Wieland photographed at the top of the U.S. Capitol, 2006

His experience at the State Assembly was impactful and has given him insight on how government works—something that is very helpful to his career now. After returning to Fresno from his time in Sacramento, Wieland decided to attend San Joaquin College of Law, and now owns his own law firm, specializing in employment and labor law.

"The fun part about practicing employment and labor law is that every case and issue we deal with is different and is intellectually stimulating and challenging to work on."

Wieland was honored, as part of the class of 2013, by the Fresno Business Journal as one of the '40 Under 40' winners. '40 Under 40' lists "outstanding business professionals of central California who have yet to reach the age of 40, have demon-strated a strong work ethic and are the leaders of today as well as tomorrow."

Looking back on his own journey, Wieland wants to help other students become successful as well —he donates to the university and provides jobs for students that he reaches through The Maddy Institute and Smittcamp Family Honors College.

"Fresno State invested a lot in my education...I give back to Fresno State so that students can have the same opportunities and experiences I did."

Alumni Education

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Photos courtesy of Audrey Goral

A young alum's career takes flight

By MARISA MATA, Student Writer

Audrey Goral (2008), a double major in mathematics and physics, offers this advice to current Fresno State students: "Make connections in your field of study and stay in contact with fellow classmates and instructors. Sometimes who you know will help you get your foot in the door and your resume/experience will take care of the rest." This is advice that she has followed, that led her to her career as an operational flight test engineer at Edwards Air Force Base.

It was a family friend that passed on Goral's resume to the base, and after a supervisor saw the skills that she had to offer, Goral was called in. She met with supervisors and toured the base. She thought that the job sounded interesting and, not really having a plan for what to do after college, she decided to try it out for a couple of years.

Goral's job as a flight test engineer entails testing programs for aircraft to help Congress make informed decisions about purchasing and fielding those programs on entire fleets.

"My days are spent writing test plans, data analysis plans, coordinating and conducting flight tests, developing data analysis tools, doing data analysis and reporting the results. Our reports inform Congress on whether the program tested is operationally effective and suitable," Goral explains.

When Goral was first hired in 2009, she figured she would try it out for a couple of years then move on, now, after six years and rich experiences, she considers this her full-fledged career. What made her decide to stay there? Goral attributes it to the "great group of people" that she works with and the recognition she and her colleagues receive for the good work that they do.

"Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, the organization that I work for, does a good job of giving recognition where it is deserved. I have won Air Force level and Department of Defense level awards."

In 2014, Goral traveled to the Pentagon to receive the Department of Defense's David O. Cooke Excellence in Public Administration Award, which she deems to be her greatest accomplishment while working at Edwards Air Force Base. This award is given to one of 800,000 civil service employees each year to recognize their work that "ex-emplifies the namesake's talents." Cooke worked with the Department of Defense for 45 years and "earned recognition as a public official that championed cooperative spirit and improved operations."

Goral says, "It was a huge honor to accept the Cooke award and I will continue to strive to better myself and become one of tomorrow's leaders."

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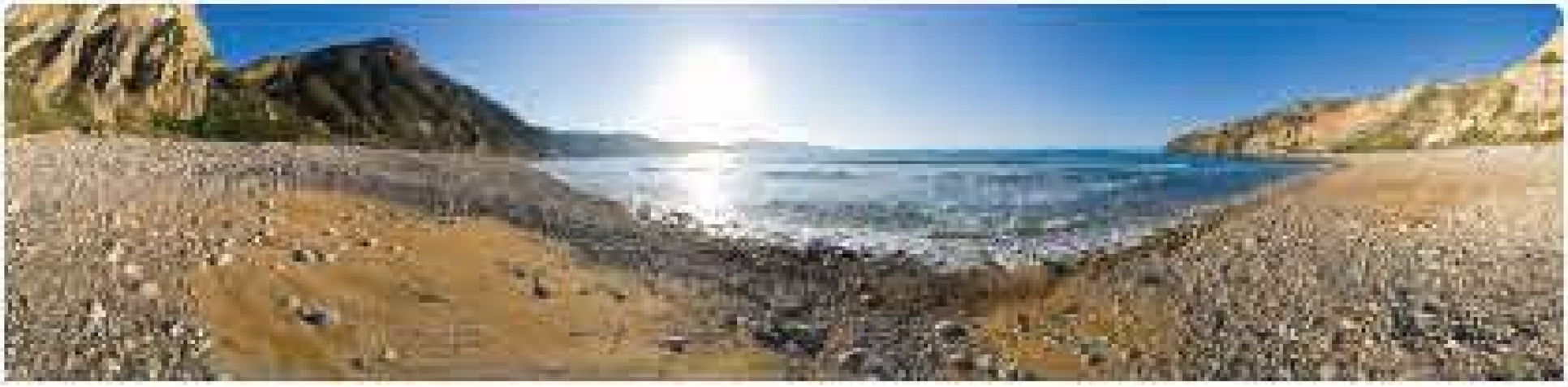

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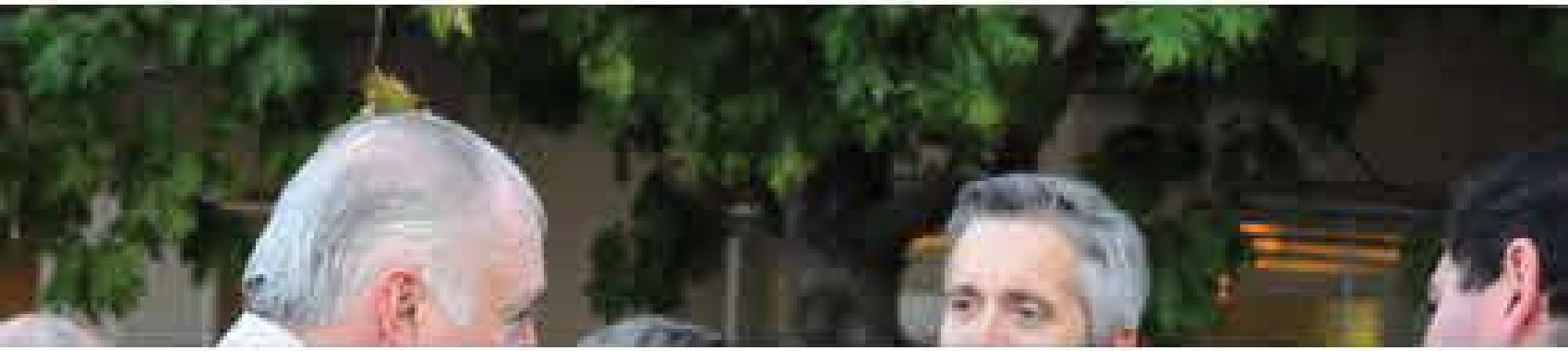

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Photos courtesy of Cary Edmondson

Business alumni enjoy night of food, wine tasting

By ESRA HASHEM, Student Writer

More than 120 alumni and business professionals gathered at the Smittcamp Alumni House recently for a night of food, wine tasting, local art and networking.

The Craig School of Business Alumni Chapter held its annual Corks & Forks tasting event on October 22.

"I think it turned out really great this year," said Kimberly Chapin, a Craig School of Business Alumni Chapter board member. "We had a lot of good feedback. People really enjoyed it."

The alumni chapter has held the tasting event for more than ten years. Along with their annual spring golf tournament, the event aims to raise scholarship money for business students at Fresno State.

"Every year, we put on Corks & Forks to increase our scholarship endowment," Chapin said.

In the 2015–16 academic year, the chapter awarded scholarships to five students.

"The event is also a great opportunity for business owners or business associates to come and network after work," Chapin said.

There were nine locally-owned wineries and four breweries at the event. The menu included seared ahi, shrimp cocktail, Thai beef skewers and a Mediterranean vegetable display catered by Ruth's Chris Steak House.

A raffle was also held that night, wherein atten-dees could win an Apple Watch, wine and beer from local vendors or small stuffed animals of Victor E. Bulldog III—who also made an appearance.

"You had all of these people drinking wine and holding stuffed animals, so it was fun to see that," Chapin said. "We also had art displayed throughout the event, so that people could check out some local art while they're tasting."

The Craig School of Business Alumni Chapter incorporated several new ideas to the event this year, Chapin said. The raffle replaced last year's silent auction, and the full menu provided by Ruth's Chris Steak House replaced previous years' finger foods. This year's patio furniture and greenery provided by Gazebo Gardens gave the event an "inviting feel," Chapin said.

"This year, the board was a lot more active in the planning process compared to years past, and I think that really allows for new and fresh ideas to be brought to the table," she said. "That was really apparent in some of the different elements, like the art, which added a new freshness to the event."

Next year, the Craig School of Business Alumni Chapter hopes to continue having food catered by Ruth's Chris Steak House, and possibly incorpo-rate a photo booth.

"This year really raised the bar for our event," Chapin said. "We intend to keep the event next year to the same caliber."

To contact the Craig School of Business Alumni Chapter, visit www.fresnostatealumni.-com/chapters/chapters.html.

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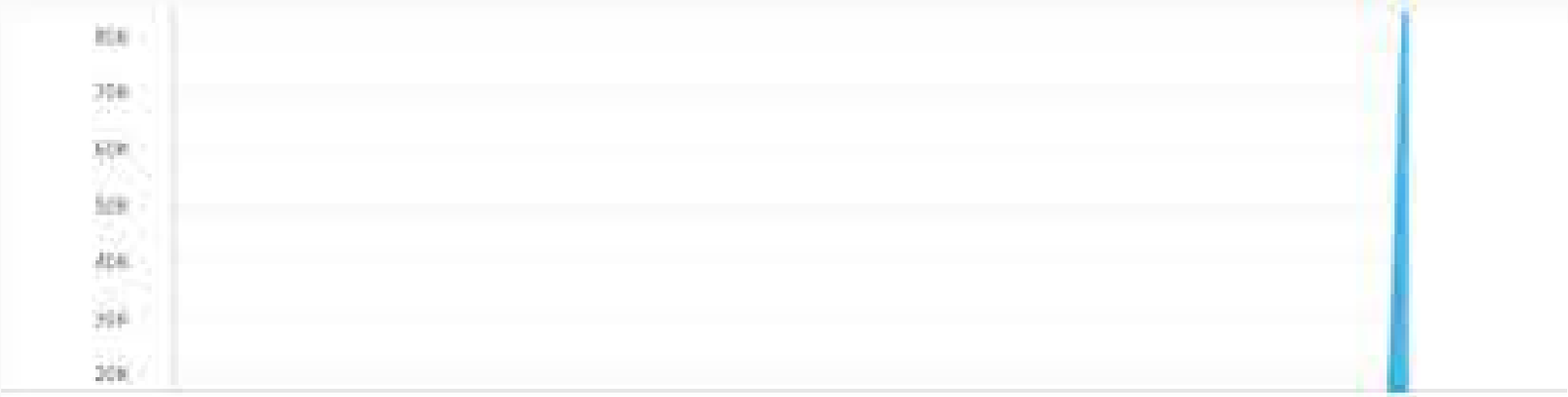

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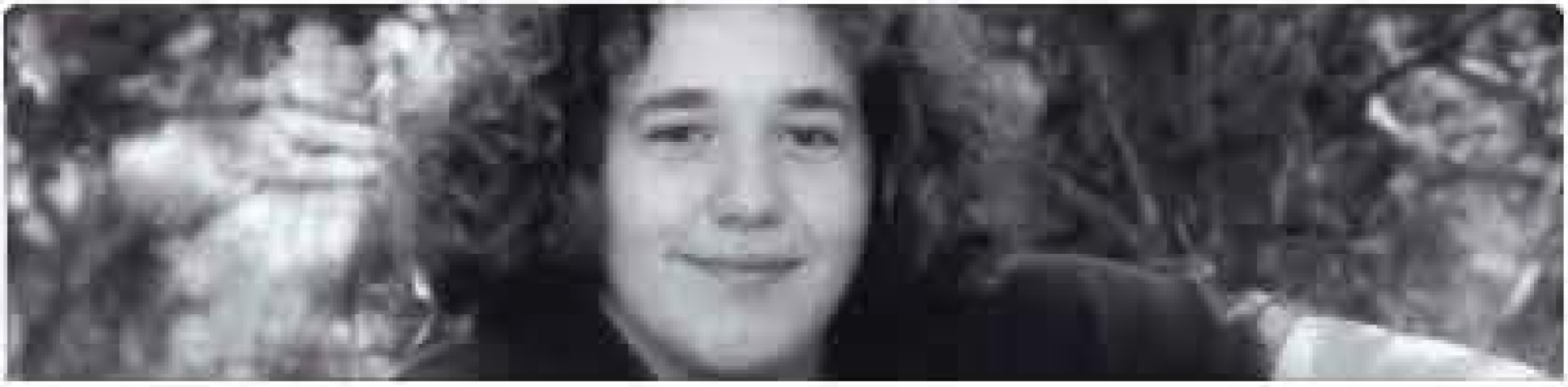

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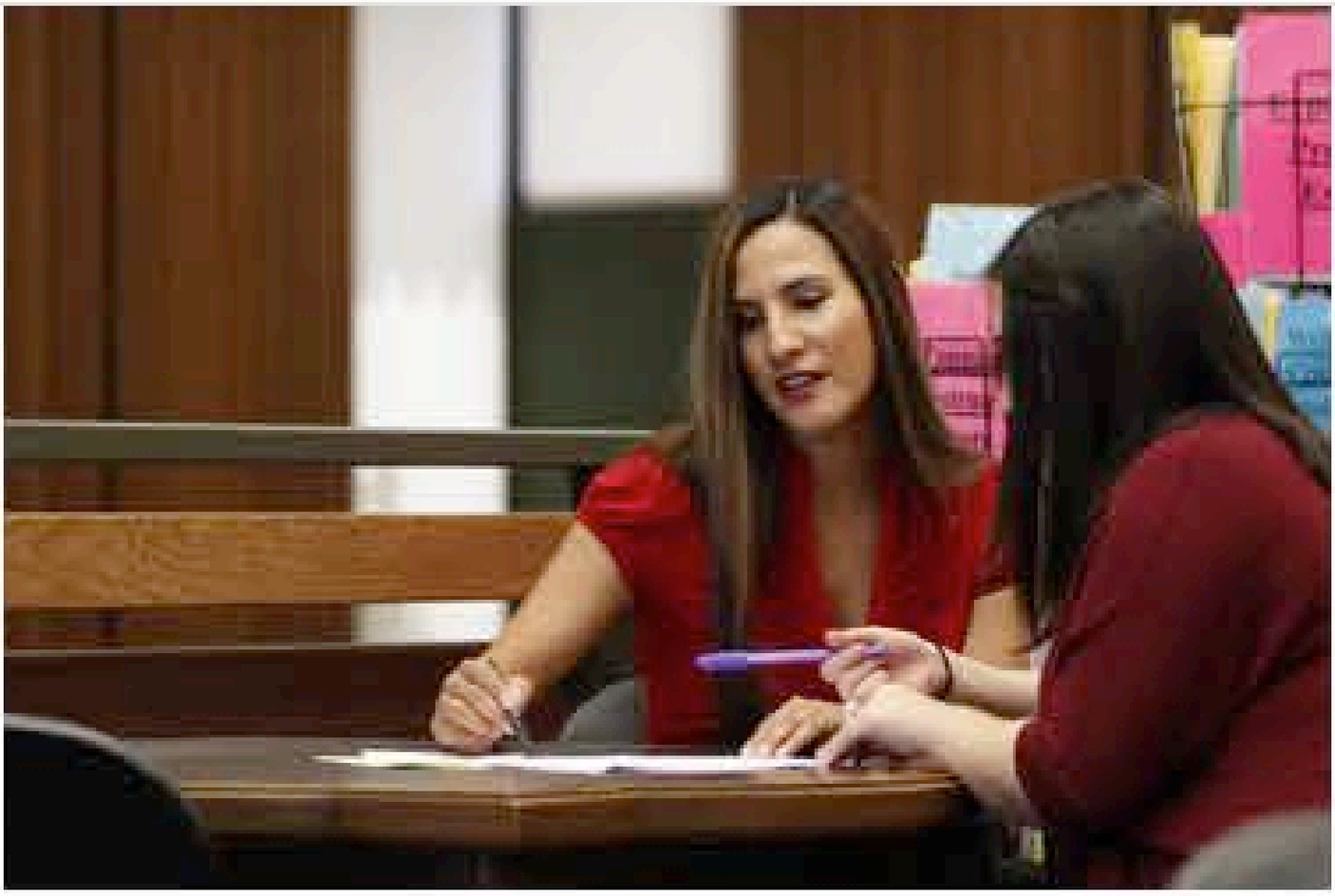


Alumni become leaders of their own college writing centers

by Jefferson Beavers

View Photo Gallery

When past and present tutors from the Fresno State Writing Center gathered this past spring to celebrate the center's 35th anniversary, alumna Tabitha Villalba felt right at home.

"It's good to be surrounded by fellow writers," she says.

Villalba is one of at least 10 tutor alumni from Fresno State who have gone on to run their own centers. Villalba serves as coordinator of the Writing and Reading Center at Fresno City College. Others have created or run centers at universities, community colleges and high schools throughout the West — as far away as the University of Colorado at Denver and as close as McLane High School.

Villalba says the best centers focus on the writers, not the writing. The Fresno State Writing Center, under the College of Arts and

Humanities, serves all Fresno State students with any writing they're working on, through small-group, walk-in or online tutoring.

Villalba's center at Fresno City College sees writers from every demographic, not just different ages and ethnicities, but "students on parole, students that have been to prison, students who haven't eaten in a couple days." Their life needs, Villalba says, make her tutors' jobs even more important — empowering writers to communicate.

> *"When I first started, the tutors had pens in their hands, which is something I discourage," says Villalba, who*

> *tutored at Fresno State for two years while earning her Master of Fine Arts in creative writing. "I said, 'Don't do that.' This is a writing center, and the writer controls the paper. The writer should have the pen in their hand."*

Another alumnus, Josh Geist, now directs the Writing Center at College of the Sequoias in

Visalia. Geist says many students have grammar-oriented experiences with writing. They put their hearts into a paper, and it comes back covered in red ink, as editing trumps ideas.

> *"We don't work on papers, we work on writers," says Geist, who tutored at the Fresno State Writing Center for seven years. "We certainly want the paper to get better, but it's much more important that*

> *the writer is learning something about how to write more effectively and how to make good decisions."*

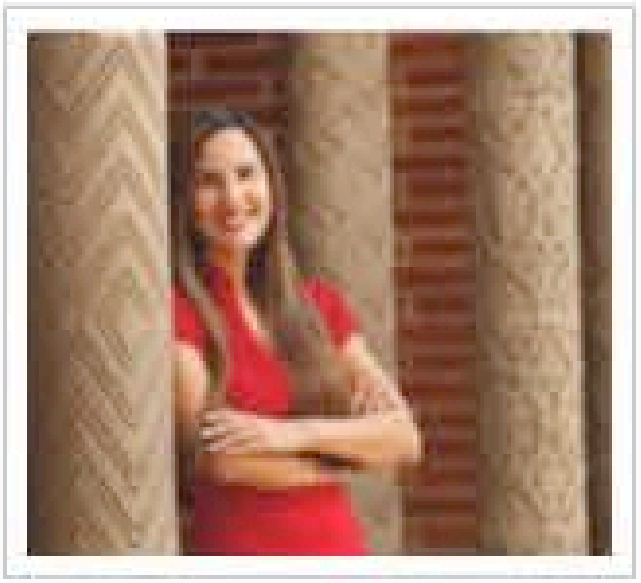
Geist, who holds a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing, says his center operates on the idea that all writers face the same challenges, no matter their level.

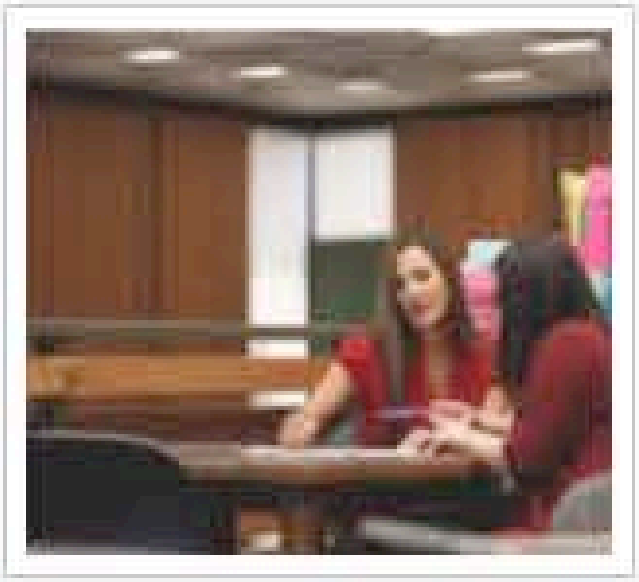
"You're still going to have that moment when you're going to sit down and stare at the blank page and have no idea," he says.

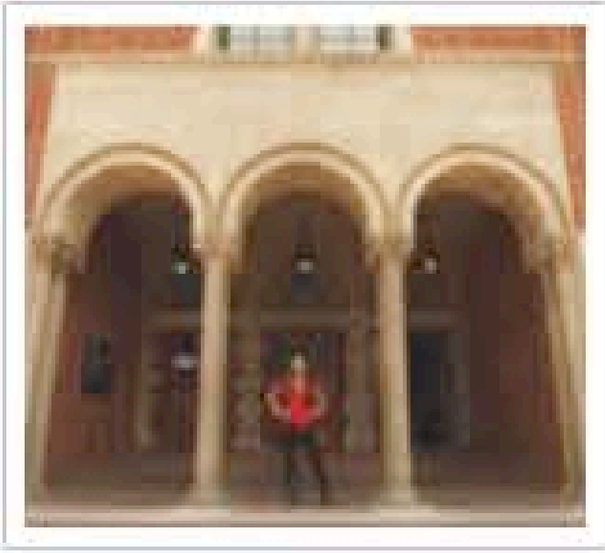
Both Geist and Villalba credit the current director of the Fresno State Writing Center, Dr. Magda Gilewicz, for their professional success. Gilewicz has coordinated the center since 1993.

Villalba says, "Magda taught from the inside out rather than the outside in. I think that she prepared us to make good decisions and to think about the ways we would train others."

—Jefferson Beavers is a communication specialist for the MFA program in creative writing at Fresno State.







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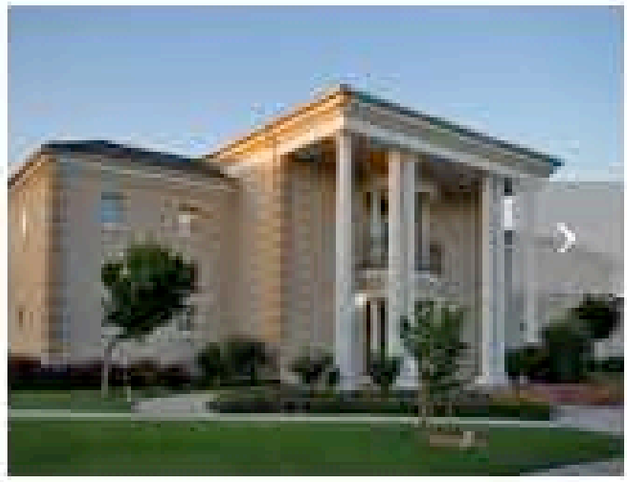

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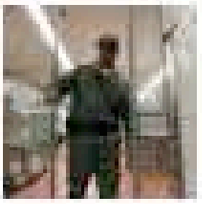

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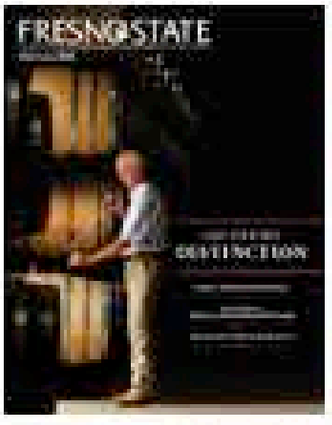

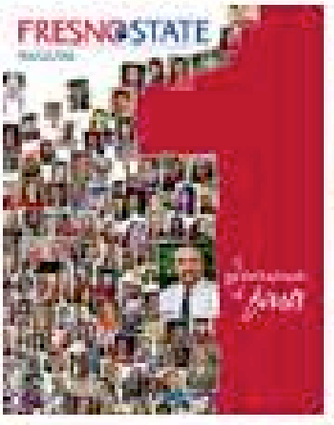

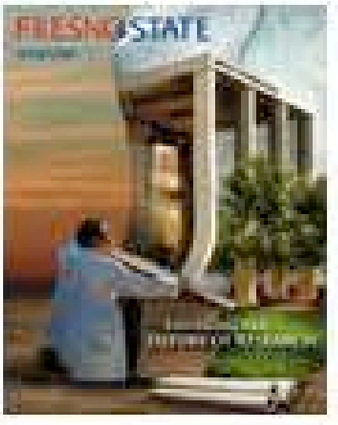

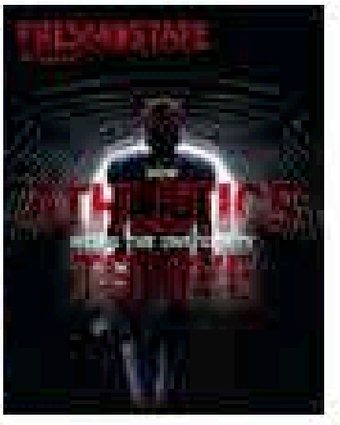

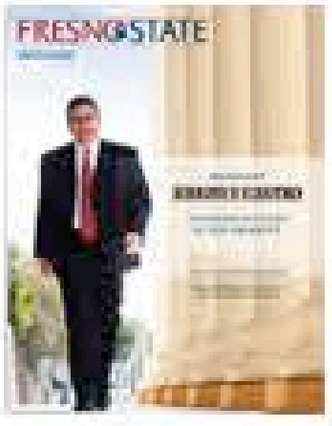

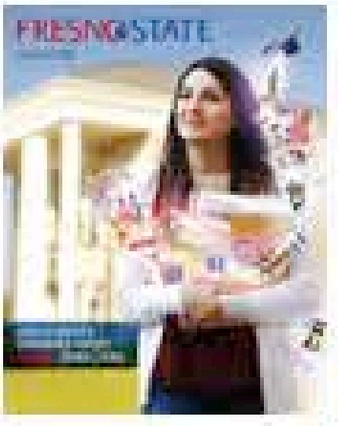

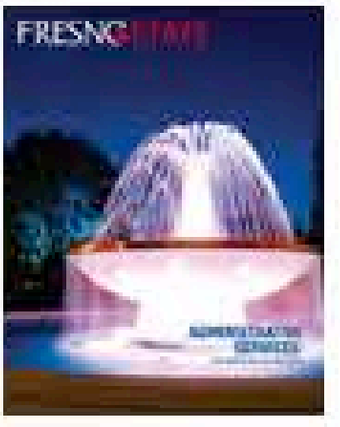

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UNIVERSITY THEATRE TO PRESENT 'REALLY REALLY'

UNIVERSITY THEATRE TO PRESENT 'REALLY REALLY'

Fresno State's University Theatre will present "Really Really" Dec. 4-12 (excluding Dec. 7) with daily show times at 7:30 p.m. and a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee in the John Wright Theatre in the Speech Arts building.

"Really Really" is a startlingly comic tragedy that confronts and embraces the harsh reality of today's youth through the aftermath of a wild college party. This edgy play about "Generation Me," written by Paul Downs Colaizzo and directed by theatre arts professor Brad Myers, was one of off-Broadway's most acclaimed in 2012.

The production is staged immediately following a party at the residence of college students and rugby teammates Cooper (played by Fresno State student Darrius Mehring-Ford) and Davis (played by Fresno State theatre arts alumni Joel Young). Much is unclear in the drunken haze, as the relationship between Davis and the ambitious Leigh (played by Fresno State theatre arts major Aubrianne Scott) turns ugly. Self-interest collides with truth and the resulting storm of ambiguity makes it difficult to discern just who is a victim, who is a predator, who is a friend and who is a future leader of America.

"The way the story unfolds had me gasping as I first read the play," Myers said. "Seven young characters, six of whom are college students, all reveal a vicious jungle of sexual politics, raw ambition and class warfare where only the strongest could possibly survive. The narrative left me without a clear-cut villain or victim as everyone is left to abandon traditional morality in the pursuit of strategic opportunity — a conversation that is relevant and necessary today."

"Really Really" is intended for mature audiences due to explicit language and sexual situations.

Tickets are $17 for adults; $15 for Fresno State faculty, staff, alumni and military; and $10 for students. Group rates, as well as partial-season subscriptions, are available. Box office hours are noon-4 p.m. on weekdays and one hour before each performance.

Parking is free for shows on Friday-Sunday nights. For shows on Tuesday-Thursday nights, permits are required in parking lots on campus and can be acquired by calling 559.278.2216.

For more information, contact 559.278.2216 or universitytheatre@csufresno.edu.

Related links:

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By Anthony Cody | November 24th, 2015 | Categories: PRESS RELEASES | Tags: community, event, university theatre | 0 Comments

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UNIVERSITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF ALUMNUS DR. HARRY MOORDIGIAN

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UNIVERSITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF ALUMNUS DR. HARRY MOORDIGIAN

Fresno State alumnus and longtime supporter Dr. Harry B. Moordigian, Jr. passed away on Nov. 11 in Fresno. He was 76.

An active supporter of Fresno State since the 1970's, Dr. Moordigian's contributions benefited numerous University programs including the Bulldog Foundation, Armenian Studies, Athletics, the Kremen School of Education and Human Development and the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

In 2007 he honored his parents, Harry and Nevart Moordigian, by establishing an Ag One endowment to support students in the Department of Viticulture and Enology.

> *"Dr. Moordigian was a close friend, an extraordinary man and one of the most loyal alumni Fresno State has ever known," said University President Dr. Joseph I. Castro. "Through both his 41 year career in dentistry and his decades of philanthropic work, Dr. Moordigian directly improved the quality of life for countless people. He will be deeply missed."*

On November 30, 2015, Castro ordered the University's flags be posted at half-staff in memory of Dr. Moordigian and his legacy of support. Dr. Moordigian was a veteran of the United States Army who served two years in Korea.

The only child of Armenian immigrants, Dr. Moordigian was raised on his family's grape ranch near Sanger. He said that much of his philanthropic work was done in honor of his parents.

In 2014 Dr. Moordigian gave $200,000 to the Fresno Family Counseling Center, a low-cost provider of counseling services run by Fresno State's Kremen School of Education and Human Development. At the time of the gift, Dr. Moordigian said his interest in the center was rooted in a decades-old letter written by his mother.

"My parents were survivors of the Armenian Genocide," Dr. Moordigian said. "Through this letter, I learned that in addition to my paternal grandfather, my mother's father had also been killed in the Genocide when my parents were very young."

He said she was able to escape to America and start a family, but died of cancer when Dr. Moordigian was just 3-years-old.

> *"This letter is how I finally met my mother. And when I realized what she went through without any counseling, it just tore me apart," Dr. Moordigian said.*

He shared the letter with faculty at the Fresno Family Counseling Center and learned that his mother likely suffered from depression. "I said to myself, OK, I want to support what they are doing for the community in memory of my parents."

Also in 2014 Dr. Moordigian established an Ag One endowment to enhance the Jordan Agricultural Research Center's microbiology laboratory. When the research center opens in spring 2016, the space will be named the Dr. Harry B. Moordigian, Jr. Laboratory and will be used by students and faculty to research microorganisms in food processing and wine production.

Dr. Moordigian's final gift to Fresno State was made earlier this year when he established the Nevart Moordigian Endowed

Scholarship Fund in support of the South Valley Education Initiative, an effort to improve academic achievement for South Valley students.

He is survived by daughter Gina Dean, her husband Nathan, and their two sons, Griffin and Nicholas, of Fresno; daughter Lisa Moordigian of Texas; ex-wife and friend Judy Moordigian and many cousins and friends he considered family. While services for Dr. Moordigian are private, family members say that his life will be celebrated in the spring prior to the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Dr. Moordigian Laboratory.

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- Family obituary notice

By Kathleen Schock | November 30th, 2015 | Categories: PRESS RELEASES | Tags: Ag one Foundation, alumni, half-staff flag | 0 Comments

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The Fresno Bee

VALLEY VOICES NOVEMBER 5, 2015 7:49 AM

Joseph I. Castro: Pell Grant helped pave my road to college

HIGHLIGHTS

Without Pell Grants, I would have not been able to attend and graduate from one of the nation's top public universities

Pell funding has increased, but maximum grants have decreased

I hope legislators will provide means for all talented, hard-working students to get higher education

BY JOSEPH CASTRO

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the Higher Education Act, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on Nov. 8, 1965, I'd like to offer my personal insights into the impact of this life-changing legislation.

The HEA allowed the dreams of a boy from

Hanford – who was willing to work hard but had very limited financial resources – to come true. I am one of the millions who have received Pell Grants, which allow students with little means to access higher education.

I can unequivocally say that without this funding, I would have not been able to attend and graduate from one of the top public universities in the nation, much less reach my current leadership position.

Pell Grant funding has increased over the years, but the maximum grant award has actually decreased. I am concerned that without the grant dollars needed in today's college market, fewer nontraditional students – who make up the majority of Fresno State's enrollment – will be able to attend college.

Fresno State is working hard to keep our costs manageable while providing a quality education. The San Joaquin Valley desperately needs more college-educated citizens, especially in science, technology, engineering, agriculture and math (STEAM) related careers.

I hope that today's federal legislators will have the bold insights of their predecessors in providing the means for all talented and hard-working students to get a higher education. These students are poised to be among the next generation of leaders, very possibly including a future president of Fresno State.

Joseph I. Castro, Ph.D., M.P.P., is president of Fresno State; Twitter: @JosephICastro

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ALUMNUS ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT IN MEMORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENT

ALUMNUS ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT IN MEMORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

STUDENT

Los Angeles-based law firm Panish Shea & Boyle LLP donated $100,000 to the California State University, Fresno Foundation to establish the Ana G. Tapia Memorial Endowment Fund. Ms. Tapia was in her first year of the Master of Public Health program at Fresno State when she died from a car accident on Nov. 7, 2014.

Law firm partner Brian Panish, a Fresno State alumnus (1980), and attorney Dan Dunbar represented Ms. Tapia's family in a wrongful death case arising from the accident.

> *"Ana Tapia was a remarkable young woman whose life was taken far too soon," said Mr. Panish. "We are proud to honor her through the creation of this scholarship fund that will provide others with an opportunity to serve the community in the same way that Ana did."*

To memorialize Ms. Tapia's legacy and commitment to education and her community, the endowment will support Fresno State public health students from the Central Valley. Undergraduate and graduate scholars with a demonstrated interest in, and a passion for, health issues and challenges in the Latino community, particularly Latina health issues, will be considered. Those from Fowler High School, Ms. Tapia's alma mater, and those with a demonstrated financial need will have priority.

"The Ana G. Tapia Memorial Scholarship will create opportunities and provide inspiration to students who want to make a difference in our region through health research and policy analysis," said Dr. John Capitman, executive director of the Central Valley Health Policy Institute at Fresno State, where Ms. Tapia interned. "This scholarship is a great starting point for Hispanic students in the Valley who have a passion for higher education in general and especially for someone like Ana, who not only had the passion for learning but also for applying the learning to advance life chances for her community."

Ms. Tapia graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in public health, with an option in community health, in May 2014. Actively involved on campus with many honor societies, clubs and internships, she was nominated for Fresno State's Undergraduate Dean's Medalist award for the Division of Student Affairs. She entered the graduate program later that fall with a desire to enhance her studies in health education.

> *"Ana embodied all the core values we strive for in our students," said Dr. Vicki Krenz, chair of the Department of Public Health and Ms. Tapia's undergraduate adviser. "She had a strong commitment to providing research on women's issues, teen pregnancy and access to health care for all. She was so dedicated*

> *and fully invested to her education and always wanted to grasp on to everything."*

Ms. Tapia had a passion for helping the underserved. While at Fresno State, she was an ambassador for the Education and Leadership Foundation and a peer mentor in the Educational Opportunity Program, providing mentoring services to first-generation, low-income and educationally disadvantaged students on campus.

Ana Tapia – Graduation

She carriedthis passion into her studies, where she displayed a strong commitment to educating the community in health issues impacting the region. Ms. Tapia was hired at the Central Valley Health Policy Institute after completing her undergraduate work and was involved in projects that catered to the underserved population, particularly Latinos. As a first-generation college student and daughter of immigrant farmworkers, these were causes close to Ms. Tapia's heart, said Krenz.

"We feel happy that something like this is being done in memory of our daughter," said Artemio and Irma Tapia, Ana's parents. "We know there are many students who, like Ana, want to continue their education and make a difference in other people's lives. We hope that a gift like this will make it easier for those students who want to continue their education and give back to their people and communities, just like our daughter did."

The first recipient of the Ana G. Tapia Memorial Scholarship will be awarded in fall 2016.

For more information, contact Angela Bailey, director of public relations at Panish Shea & Boyle LLP, at 909.286.4040 or Dana Lucka, director of development for Fresno State's College of Health and Human Services, at 559.278.5590 or danaz@csufresno.edu.

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bit.ly/FSN-AnaTapiaServices

By Melissa Tav | November 6th, 2015 | Categories: PRESS RELEASES | Tags: alumni, endowment, in memory | 0 Comments

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DR. SAÚL JIMÉNEZ-SANDOVAL NAMED DEAN OF COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

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DR. SAÚL JIMÉNEZ-SANDOVAL NAMED DEAN OF COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, a Fresno State professor of Spanish and Portuguese and interim associate dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, has been named dean of the college, effective Jan. 1.

Fresno State Provost Lynnette Zelezny announced the appointment, calling Jiménez-Sandoval "a stellar scholar and master of languages" who has earned the respect of the faculty for his integrity, collaborative spirit and commitment to students. "He is a visionary and an articulate leader who will bridge the arts and humanities at Fresno State to lead the college toward a bright future."

Jiménez-Sandoval will succeed Interim Dean José A. Díaz, who was not a candidate for the position. Díaz will be on special assignment in the spring semester.

The College of Arts and Humanities has 2,250 students majoring in its nine departments: art and design, communication, English, linguistics, mass communication and journalism, modern and classical languages and literatures, music, philosophy and theatre arts.

Over 4,000 students are enrolled in College of Arts and Humanities courses, the highest number in any college at Fresno State. In addition to the majors, the college's programs include Armenian studies, classical studies, interdisciplinary humanities and study abroad in London and Florence, Italy.

The College of Arts and Humanities has 150 full-time faculty and over 160 part-time faculty, graduate assistants, graduate teaching associates and clerical and technical staff.

Jiménez-Sandoval joined the Fresno State faculty in 2000. He chaired the Department of Modern and Classical Languages for six years, and was instrumental in developing the master's degree program in Spanish. He has directed 26 master's theses. He directs the college's Advising Center, and he serves as coordinator of the College Honors Program and liaison to Fresno's Mexican Consulate. He also is co-coordinator of the oral communication section for WASC reaccreditation and faculty adviser to the Central California World Language project.

A native of Mexico, Jiménez-Sandoval holds dual Mexican and U.S. citizenship. He grew up in Fowler and worked on his family's farm. After graduating from Fowler High School, he attended the University of California, Irvine and earned bachelor's degrees in Spanish and history and a Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese literatures. He holds certificates from universities in Spain and Portugal in language, literatures and culture, and a certificate in critical theory from Cornell University.

He has published extensively on Spanish Golden Age authors, Mexican literature and Portuguese poetry.

> *"I'm excited and energized by the opportunity to lead the college in ways that promote the value of our diverse disciplines," Jiménez-Sandoval said. "The College of Arts and Humanities is at the heart of the University, our Valley and our lives."*

By Shirley Armbruster | November 23rd, 2015 | Categories: PRESS RELEASES | Tags: College of Arts and Humanities, faculty/staff | 0 Comments

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FRESNO STATE
MAGAZINE

Winemaking: A Growing Tradition

by Eddie Hughes

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A short walk atop a hill at one of Napa Valley's most well-known wineries reveals an enchanting building constructed in 1888 that resembles an English gothic castle. It's Chateau Montelena — built of thick, rectangular stones and covered in vines as green and healthy as the grape vineyards in the fields it watches over.

It's a structure made for the big screen. And while Hollywood took a bit of creative liberty in producing the 2008 film "Bottle Shock" — a Napa Valley love story highlighting the rise of California wines — it certainly captured the charismatic personality of Bo Barrett, CEO and president of Chateau Montelena.

Barrett, a Fresno State alumnus who studied viticulture and enology in 1976-77, was portrayed in the film by Chris Pine. The movie tells the story of a British wine connoisseur who visits Napa expecting to find a product inferior to the French wines that had traditionally dominated the market. But a blind taste test by French judges in Paris proves the California wine — namely the 1973 Chateau Montelena Chardonnay — to be the best in class.

The nine judges were taken aback when they realized they had selected a California wine. The "Judgment of Paris," as it became known, was featured in TIME magazine, and a bottle of the Chardonnay is on display at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

During production of the Chardonnay, Barrett and his father, Jim Barrett, portrayed by Bill Pullman, discover the white wine in thousands of bottles had turned a darkish color, a phenomenon known as "pinking" or bottle shock. Barrett recalls learning about the process in a class at Fresno State led by Sig Shandrel, who told the students they'd likely never see such a thing in America because the wines aren't acidic enough. But Barrett quickly chimed in with his story.

"That was the first time I ever spoke in front of my classmates," Barrett says. "I put my hand up and said, 'Actually our '73 Chardonnay pinked,' and the professor said, 'Tell us how you accomplished this feat.'"

In scientific terms, pinking occurs in the presence of polyphenols that turn colors due to oxidation. In the film, the wine turns back to its proper color over time.

Bottle Shock

"Bottle Shock" helped Chateau Montelena, nestled near Mount Saint Helena in Calistoga, become even more of a tourist attraction, ballooning in popularity with fans of the film. The winery produces 50,000 cases a year and farms about 200 acres.

"We make a lot of noise for a small company," says Barrett, whose wife Heidi and two daughters are also in the wine business. "It's such a well-known and prestigious brand, people think it's bigger than it is. We're trying not to grow in size, just grow in quality. When we put a cork in a bottle, we pack as much good stuff in there as we can."

Chateau Montelena, built in the 19th century for barrel storage, was purchased by Jim Barrett, an attorney, in the early 1970s. The vineyard was cleared and replanted, and the winery was updated with modern equipment. Wine was produced for the first time in 1972, and a year later won the Paris tasting. The winery started with 10 employees and today has 80.

Barrett originally attended the University of Utah, when he was an avid skier, before transferring to Fresno State. He won an academic excellence award in 1977, the same year his son was born.

Barrett's story is one of many that have spawned from classrooms at Fresno State to grape vineyards all over the world. The University estimates that since 1950 about 1,000 alumni have worked in the grape and wine industry throughout California and abroad. About 84 percent work in California — 60 percent in the Central Valley, North Coast and Central Coast — and 3 percent in foreign nations like Spain, Bolivia, New Zealand and Japan.

Barrett says the camaraderie between students with similar interests and relationships he developed at Fresno State were a valuable part of the education. One of his former classmates, Dave Vella, is now the vineyard manager at Chateau Montelena. They each took classes from Vince Petrucci, the founder of the University's viticulture and enology program.

Fresno State viticulture and enology

New University winemaker Matt Brain says Fresno State has the "best viticulture and enology program in the United States."

Fresno State certainly made news in 1997 when it became the first American university to operate a commercially bonded, on-campus winery. The Fresno State Winery has won more than 600 awards and bottles 20 varieties of wine. The unique winery has been featured on ESPN numerous times during nationally televised Fresno State football games.

The University offers wine tasting courses and sells its product in the on-campus Rue and Gwen Gibson Farm Market, Save Mart Supermarkets and other stores, as well as online. Proceeds from wine sales support students in Fresno State's Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

"I think that teaches the students something of value, because the job is to reward your consumers," Barrett says.

> *"At the end of the day, to be successful in this business, you must consider the ultimate arbiter of quality for your success is the consumer. So having Fresno State teach its students right off the get go that you've got to make stuff that people are going to want, that's a critical component."*

One of the major advantages of Fresno State's program is that viticulture and enology are under the same umbrella, where students are exposed to the art, science and farming of winemaking, as well as marketing.

Professor Kevin Smith, sales and marketing manager for the Fresno State Winery, says students are required to spend six hours per week in the winery during the fall semester developing wines that will be sold on store shelves. Later, they work events and sales channels. "Between the winery equipment, real-time wine chemistry testing, bottling line and sales software, our students are able to hit the ground running from their first day after graduation," Smith says.

A global influence of alumni

Gallegos

Fresno State's viticulture and enology graduates can be found all over California and the globe. And many have left their marks on the industry, such as Ondine Chattan, director of winemaking for Accolade Wines/Geyser Peak Winery North America; Greg Stach (1992), winemaker, whose Landmark Vineyards wine has been served at the White House; Hal Huffsmith, senior vice president for vineyard operations at Sutter Home Vineyards; Louis Moreau (1990), a sixth-generation winemaker from Chablis, France; Mark Beringer, chief winemaker for Beringer Vineyards; and Fred Holloway (1981), director of production and winemaking for JUSTIN wines — just to name a few of the graduates.

"I keep in touch with some fellow grads and have met many more over the years," Chattan says. "When I do meet fellow alumni, there is a great, instantaneous connection."

Chattan, who earned her master's at Fresno State in 1997 and now lives in Healdsburg, says daily interaction with professors and industry professionals helped prepare her for a competitive workplace where she faced challenges in achieving her goals.

> *"Being a woman tends to get you typecast in laboratory or clerical roles," she says. "I had to be steadfast in my commitment to run production winemaking, never wavering and always dedicated to the goal."*

Eric Gallegos, general manager for Gallegos Wines, faced challenges of his own in building a startup company. Gallegos' grandfather immigrated to Napa Valley from Michoacan, Mexico, in 1956 and worked at Beringer Winery for more than 30 years. His father was the vineyard foreman at the Hundred Acre J.J. Cohn Ranch in Rutherford, where the family lived in a tiny farmhouse.

> *"I guess you can say wine is in my blood," Gallegos says. "I was on a tractor as young as I can remember, and by the age of 7, I was pruning in the vineyards. My brother and I would race to see who could reach the end of the row first."*

The family winery now produces more than 1,000 cases annually. "Fresno State gave me the opportunity to expand my professional network and get the technical schooling needed that has helped move Gallegos Wines from an idea to a successful startup."

It's an exciting time to be in the growing wine business, which is part of the reason Fresno State's program is growing as well. Barrett recalls something his professor said in 1976.

"Professor Sig Shandrel said, 'If Americans ever start drinking wine there will be a single, continuous vineyard from Guadalajara to Vancouver.' And what we see now, from Ensenada to Vancouver, in an airplane, you can always see a vineyard. The future is very bright for American wine."

—Eddie Hughes is senior editor for FresnoState Magazine.

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FRESNO STATE

Fresno State News

UNIVERSITY SERVES 335 VETERANS WITH THREE PROGRAMS

UNIVERSITY SERVES 335 VETERANS WITH THREE PROGRAMS

Contingency led by Bulldogs Marching Band will participate in Veterans Day parade

(UPDATED November 18, 2015) —For Veterans Day, Fresno State honored students who have served the nation through military service with its annual observance on campus, a 5k run, participation in the Veterans Day Parade in downtown Fresno and television shows featuring nursing alumni and two new programs supporting the CSU Troops to College initiative.

The annual Fresno County Toys for Tots was launched as well.

The campus Veterans Day Ceremony, held in the Allen Lew Memorial Garden Nov. 4, featured keynote speaker Lorenzo Rios (Lt. Col. US Army – RET), the CEO of Clovis Veterans Memorial District. Rios worked at Fresno State as commander of the Army ROTC Bulldog Battalion until he retired in May. He is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army.

The Fresno State Army ROTC and Air Force ROTC led by bag piper Ken Bain presented colors and the Music Department's Chorus performed "My Country Tis of Thee" and "God Bless America". Vocalist Lori Alamano, who works in the Fresno State Police Department, sang the National Anthem.

The event, sponsored by the Student Veterans Organization, opened with Chaplain Clayton Diltz, an Air Force veteran who delivered the invocation. He is the current chaplain for the Fresno Veterans Home and the wing chaplain the 144th Fighter

Wing Air National Guard Base in Fresno, and Kaweah Delta Hospital. He is also an adjunct professor at Fresno Pacific University and on the elder board at Visalia Evangelical Free Church.

Virginia Cardinal, coordinator for Fresno County Toys for Tots, announced this year's drive organized by the Marine Corps League of Fresno. They are accepting new, unwrapped toys to distribute to children in the community during Christmas.

The Fresno State Army ROTC held its annual 5K run, open to all ages, on Nov. 7 on campus. Proceeds for the run benefit the Clovis Veterans Memorial District and the VFW.

The campus is closed every year on Nov. 11 when the annual Fresno Veterans Day parade is held downtown — the 95th anniversary recognizing armistice declared between Germany and the Allied Nations ending World War I — and once again led by the Fresno State Bulldog Marching Band.

University participants included the ROTC units and student veterans clubs SVO and Omega Delta Sigma and the Fresno State Spirit Squad cheerleaders and mascot Timeout.

The Fresno State Army ROTC Bulldog Battalion, under the direction of Major Boyce Buckner, will be escorting veterans at the parade as well as riding on the Clovis Memorial Veterans District float while 25 cadets of the Air Force ROTC Detachment

35 will march in formation under the command of Lt. Col. Kenneth Bourque.

Also participating in the parade were Fresno State nursing alumni Marie Hoemke (1962) and Pam Loewen (1966) riding in the Central California Center for Excellence in Nursing car. Both have led decorated and honorable nursing careers in the military that span multiple decades.

Hoemke was a staff nurse in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, and Loewen was a staff nurse in the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps, later becoming a flight nurse instructor earning her the Air Force Commendation medal and the Meritorious Service medal. She is also the historian for the center's Nursing Legacy Project.

See their stories at the blog for the Fresno State College of Health and Human Services: bit.ly/FS-NursingVeterans15.

After the parade, KSEE24's Central Valley Today show featured the nurses and two new veterans programs which began this summer to join with the Veterans Services in Student Affairs in serving students.

The Student Support Services Veterans Program received funding as part of Fresno State's TRiO Student Support Services Program in July and the Veterans Education Program in the Division of Continuing and Global Education received a gift from the Red and Nancy Arnold Foundation in June.

TRIO veterans director Eluterio Escamilla and Dr. Daniel Bernard, director of the Veterans Education Program, appeared on the KSEE show with host Stephanie Bainum.

The TRiO program serves 120 students with its own counselor, two peer mentors and two academic facilitators. The reading/writing specialist and program assistant are assigned to both programs.

Escamilla is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a graduate of Fresno State earning a master's degree in International Relations in 1998.

To be eligible for either program, participants must be a first generation, low-income student enrolled in 12 or more units at Fresno State and/or have learning or physical disability. For the veterans program, the student must also have an honorable discharge from military service.

For application information, contact Jennifer Garzon at 559.278.5725 or visit the Thomas Building, Room 122.

The Veterans Education Program will use the Red and Nancy Arnold Foundation gift for a new program that will help Valley veterans and current service members' transition into higher education.

The only program of its kind on the West Coast, the Arnold program is designed for first-year student veterans who have been denied admittance to Fresno State and veterans who are eligible for admittance but lack transfer credit.

Bernard said the program provides support for veterans transitioning from military life to an academic setting.

"It can be difficult for those in the military to adjust upon returning from active duty," Bernard said. "They may feel isolated or feel like they don't fit in to the college lifestyle. This cohort-based program continues the camaraderie found in the military and provides student veterans the complete college experience in an encouraging and welcoming environment."

See them on the KSEE show at http://bit.ly/KSEE-VeteransProgramsCVT

For more information on the Veterans Education Program contact Dr. Bernard at dbernard@csufresno.edu or 559.278.1901.

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TRiO Veterans Program

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By Tom Uribes | November 10th, 2015 | Categories: PRESS RELEASES | Tags: Bulldogs Marching Band, event, veterans day, veterans Education Program | 0 Comments

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The Fresno Bee

BETHANY CLOUGH SEPTEMBER 26, 2015 4:58 AM

Retail Therapy: Fresno jewelry maker Make Pie Not War grows

HIGHLIGHTS

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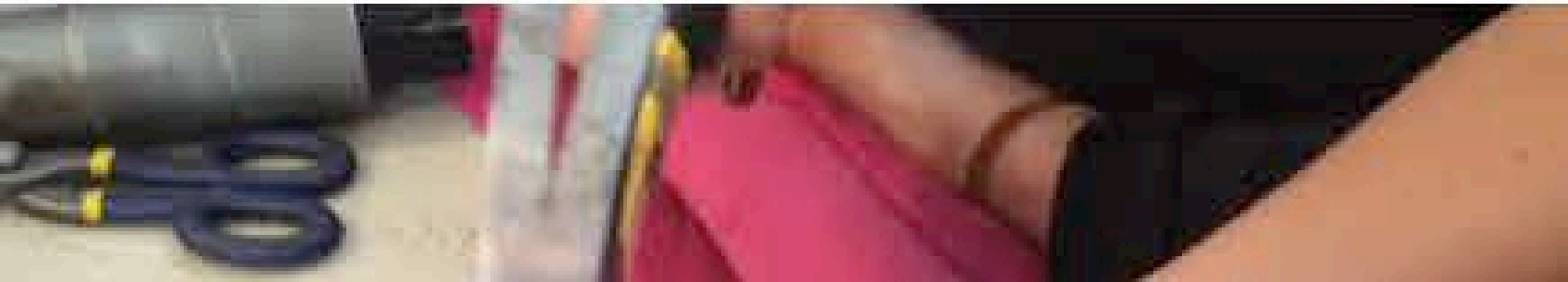
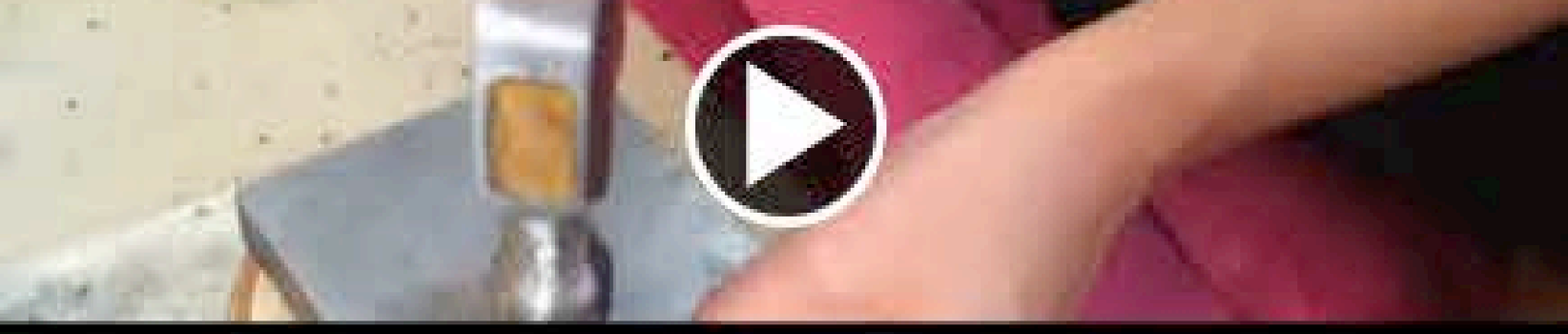
Business run from converted garage in northwest Fresno

Finalist for Martha Stewart American Made award





Alana Little of Make Pie Not War demonstrates how she makes jewelry 0:48

BY BETHANY CLOUGH
bclough@fresnobee.com

You wouldn't know it from the outside of the little house with a white picket fence in northwest Fresno, but inside is a booming business.

Make Pie Not War ships out necklaces, bracelets and rings made in the converted garage to about 40 boutiques nationwide and one in Japan. The business is a finalist in the Martha Stewart American Made awards.

Still small enough to be nimble, the company is staying on top of trends and customizing orders for stores in different parts of the country.

Necklaces that feature tiny tacos and pretzels, bracelets with writing in Braille, and jewelry that can be personalized with dates, initials, coordinates or sayings round out the selection of jewelry.

"People are surprised that we live in Fresno and we do this," says founder Alana Little. "We're trying to change that stigma here."

The garage where Little and an assistant make, market and ship the jewelry is decorated with gold polka dots and stocked with drill presses and soldering equipment.

> **IT'S DIRTY WORK. IT LOOKS PRETTY WHEN IT'S DONE.**
>
> Alana Little, Make Pie Not War

Little, 33, is a 2004 Fresno State grad with a degree in accounting and a fashion design degree from the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles.

She had a job as a corporate accountant, but it was "soul crushing," as she says in her Martha Stewart award nomination, so she quit.

Making jewelry was a hobby Little started at age 10. Her husband Cameron Little was running Ephraim Clothing. When he sold his clothing at festivals and shows, she'd sell her jewelry from a little corner of his table. That little corner got bigger and bigger as sales of the jewelry took off.

She quit her accountant job to focus on Make Pie Not War.

Now, the 8-year-old business is gaining steam. It will be featured in a gift guide in the December issue of Country Living. Make Pie Not War jewelry has been sold through Zappos.com and Little is pictured on the October cover of the Enjoy Magazine based in Visalia.

And of course, the business is in the running for the Martha Stewart award. Make Pie Not War was picked by the competition's judges as a finalist. The public now votes on a winner, who gets $10,000 to grow their business, at www.marthastewart.com/americanmade until Oct. 19.

You can buy the jewelry locally at Pum Bum stores in River Park and at Champlain Drive and Perrin Avenue, Enjoy the Store in Visalia or online at Etsy.com.

One benefit of Make Pie Not War being a small business is its ability to stay on top of trends and meet needs of stores around the country – an agility that giant manufacturers don't have.

"I can tailor my line to their customers," Little says. "That's what makes me different."

So that pretzel necklace with little sterling silver beads of salt is aimed at New York audience. Portland likes its jewelry modern and minimalistic.

"The Southern chicks, they love bar necklaces and they're really die hard into football," Little says, adding that she's made necklaces with "#gunsup" printed on them, a saying used by Texas Tech University referencing its mascot.

> **WE'RE FROM CALIFORNIA SO WE HAD TO HAVE A TACO (NECKLACE).**
>
> Alana Little, Make Pie Not War

Fresno-based Pum Bum owner Alma Wolverton sells a Make Pie Not War necklace that features tiny constellations punched into a metal pendant. Some are associated with Zodiac signs and customers buy the necklace of their birth month.

The pendants were originally the size of a quarter, but since "the dainty look is in," Wolverton says, she encouraged Little to shrink the pendants. She did and they've been selling well ever since, Wolverton says.

"People are just flocking to them," she says. "Those will be continue to be a staple in our store."

In addition to selling at boutiques, Make Pie Not War also customizes individual orders through Etsy. One customer bought a necklace for a friend who is blind after the friend's husband passed away. The husband's initials are written in Braille on the necklace.

Initials, dates, sayings and coordinates of meaningful places – say, a favorite vacation spot – can all be added to jewelry.

"You can take something and make it so personal and you have it forever," Little says.

Bethany Clough: 559-441-6431, @BethanyClough

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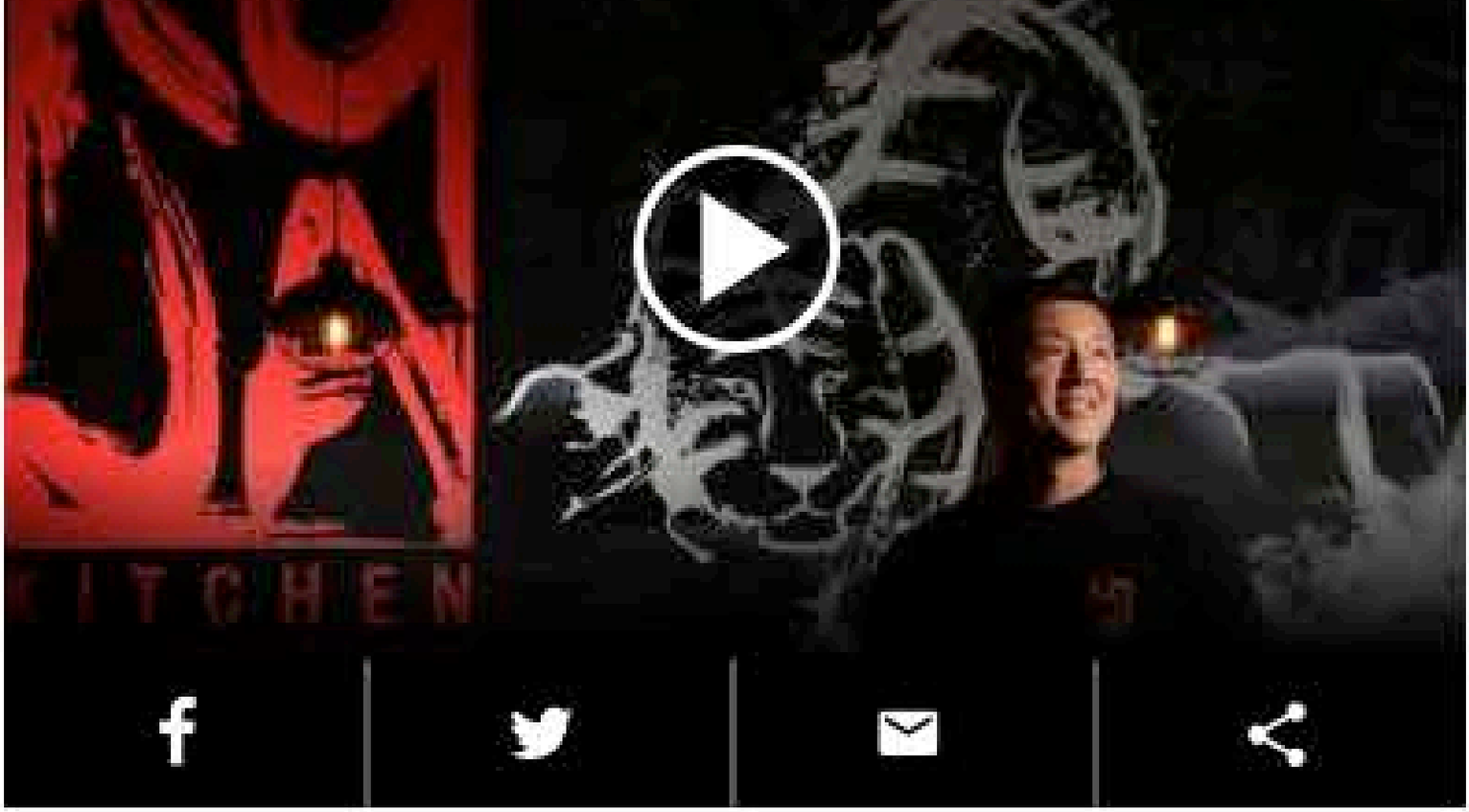
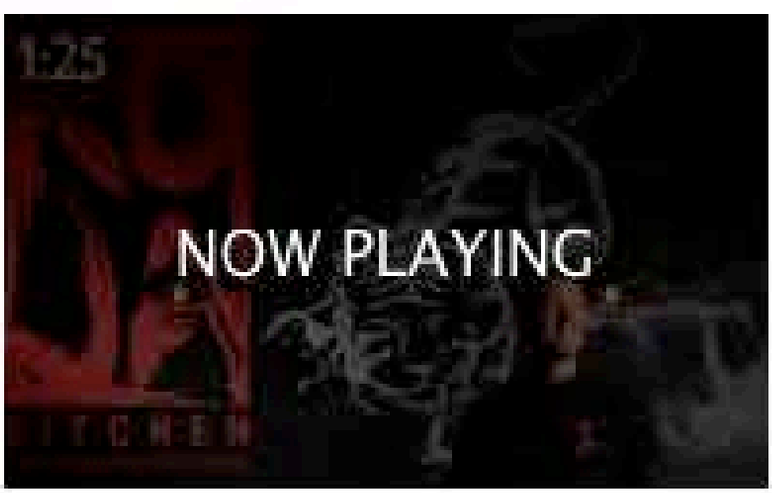
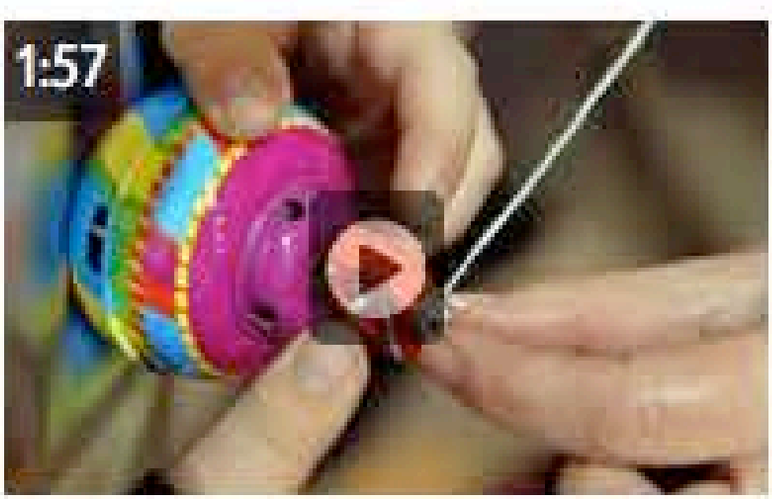


KoJa Kitchen fuses Korean and Japanese fare



KoJa Kitchen fuses Korean and Japanese fare



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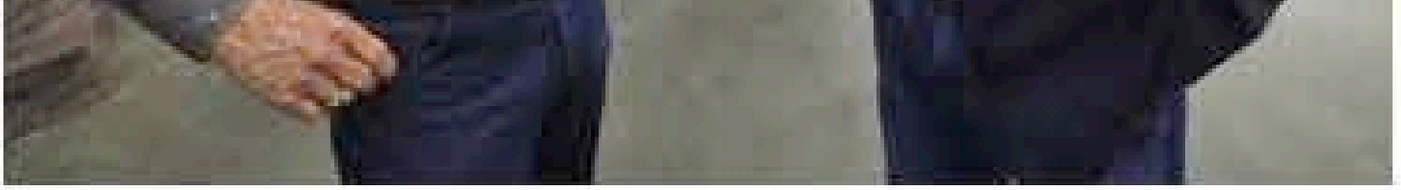
Awards Luncheon



BY ROBERT RODRIGUEZ
brodriguez@fresnobee.com

Joe Del Bosque, the west-side farmer who gave President Barack Obama a tour of his drought-stricken land last year, will be honored Wednesday, Oct. 28 as the 2015 Agriculturist of the Year by the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

Hall Management Corp. of Kerman was named recipient of Baker Peterson Franklin's Ag Business Award.

The awards were announced Oct. 9 during The Big Fresno Fair. The annual Agricultural Awards Luncheon is Wednesday at DoubleTree by Hilton in downtown Fresno.

The awards recognize leadership, integrity, service and entrepreneurship in the region's agriculture business community.

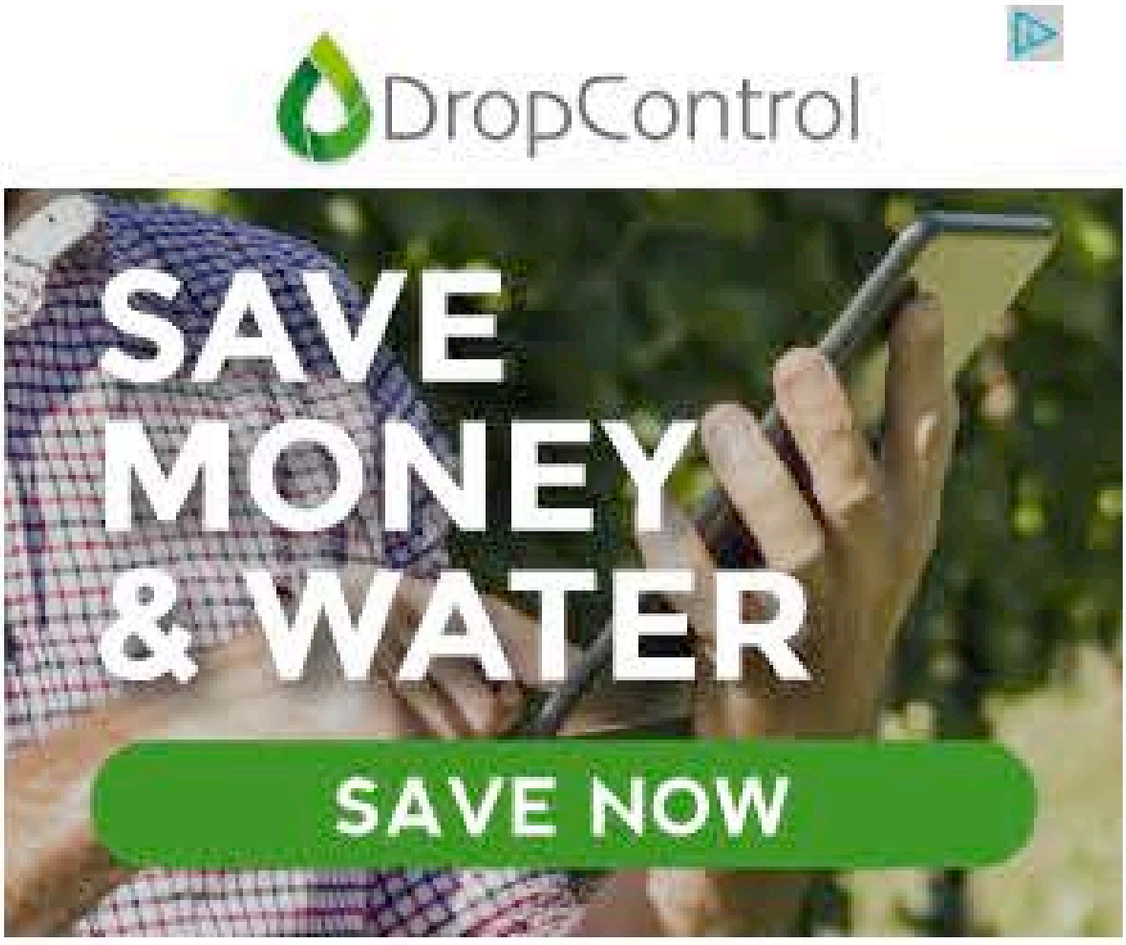
Founded in 1985, Empresas Del Bosque Inc. began as a small operation led by Del Bosque and his wife, Maria. Today, the Firebaugh-area grower has built a company that farms cantaloupes – conventional and organic – along with organic honeydew, asparagus and almonds.

Del Bosque has become one of California agriculture's leading spokesmen and advocates. He has served on the California Water Commission since 2010 and is a supporter of the Latino Water Coalition.

Last year, Del Bosque hosted a visit to his farm by Obama and Gov. Jerry Brown to give the leaders a closer look at how the drought was affecting the state.

Del Bosque also routinely hosts visitors to his farm to help educate them about farming.

"We live and work in the greatest agriculture area of the world, and to be named as agriculturist of the year is truly quite an honor," Del Bosque said.



Also honored Friday was Hall Management Corp. The Kerman-based farm labor contractor was founded in 1964 by Earl Hall.

The company has become one of the largest of its kind in the state, operating in 26 counties and employing up to 25,000 workers at peak harvest.

Hall said the key to creating a successful company is to surround yourself with talented people, from the field workers to his managers.

"I can only do so much with my two hands," Hall said. "But when you have thousands of pairs of hands, you can do so much more. And that is what this company has done."

For information about the Agricultural Awards Luncheon: Fresno Chamber of Commerce, www.fresnochamber.com or 559-495-4800.

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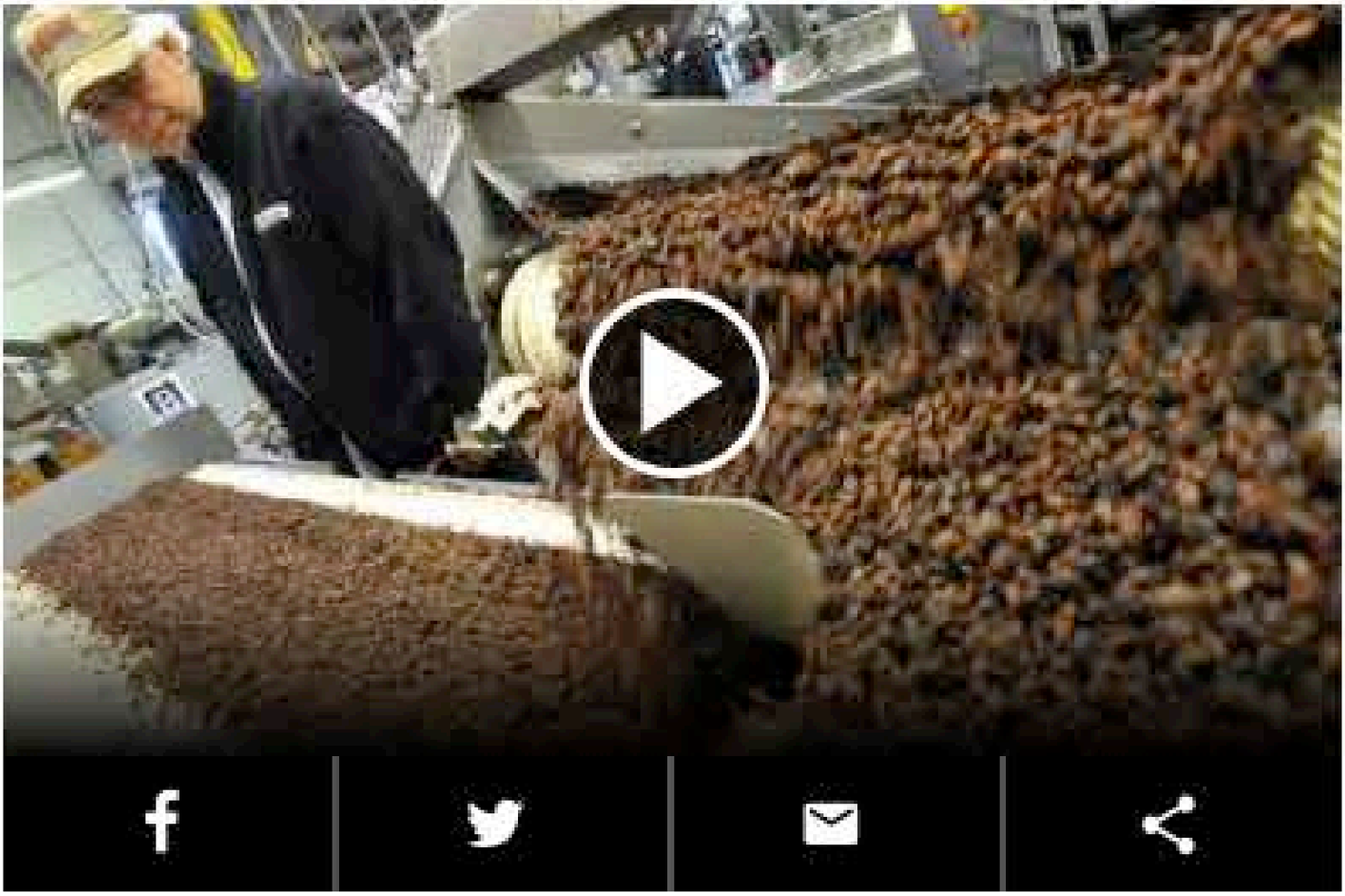
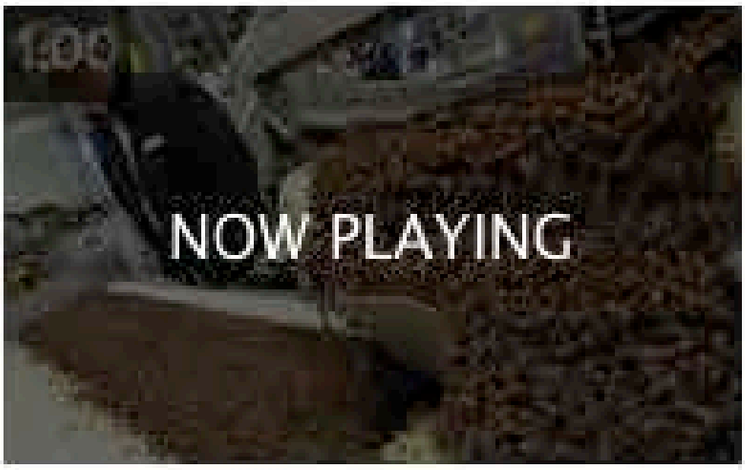


San Joaquin Valley raisin harvest underway



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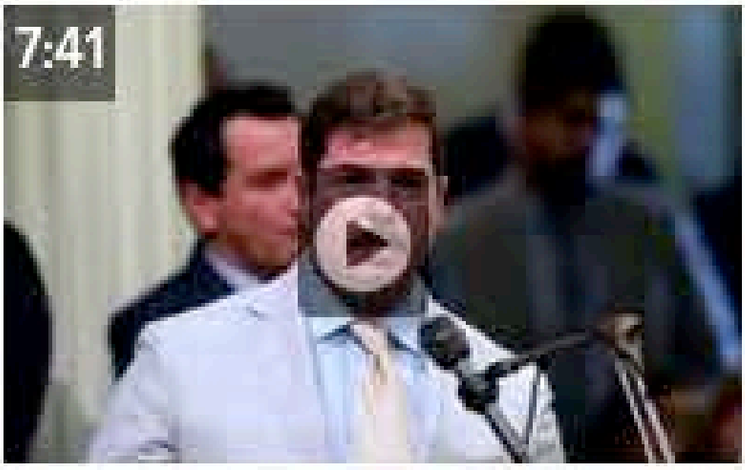

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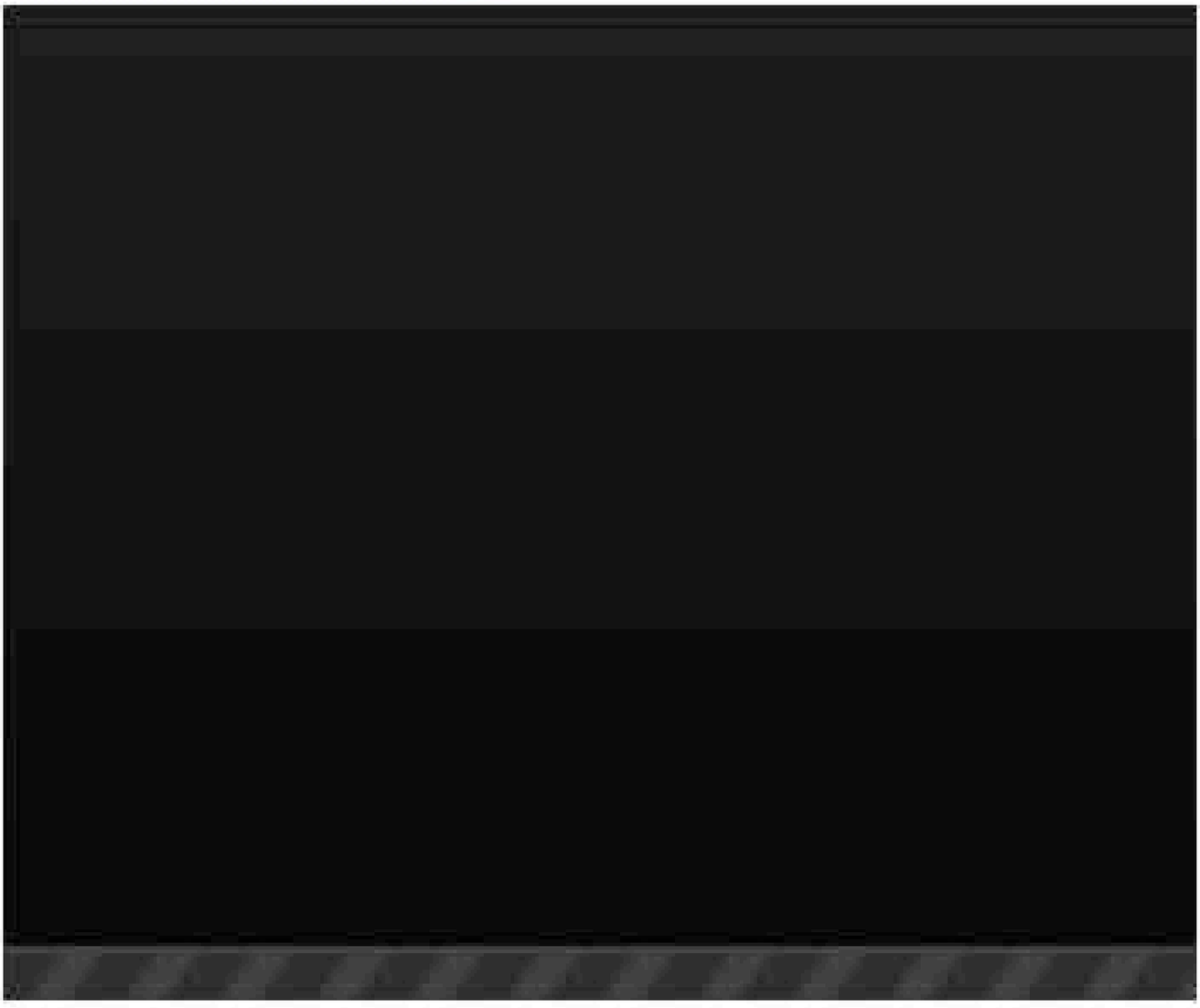

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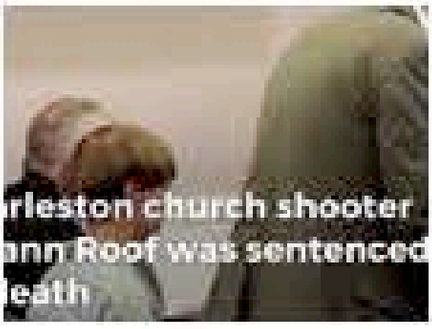

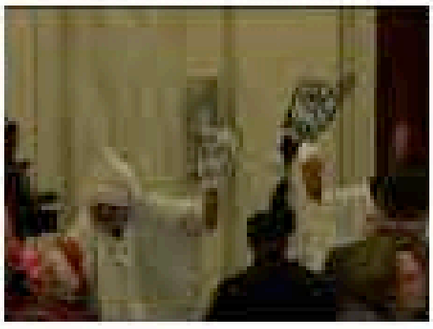

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